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Confinement of prisoners convicted for life in jails in their native districts.

* 39 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have decided to repatriate, as a matter of policy, prisoners convicted for life in the Madras State to their respective districts; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government have taken to implement that decision?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Under the rules in force and as far as possible, prisoners convicted for life in this State are ordinarily confined in the Central Jails situated in or nearest to their native districts."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that there was a hunger-strike by prisoners convicted for life from Tamil Nad now lodged in the Cannanore Jail? Have the Government received reports about it and what action have they taken in the matter? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am not prepared to concede the point that as soon as they go on hunger-strike, I should consider their cases. I am not prepared to do that. Hunger-strike should be discouraged."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" அரசாங்கம் இவைகளுக்கெல்லாம் அசையவே மாட்டேன் என்று சொன்னால், சிறையில் உள்ளவர்களைக் கவனிப்பதற்கு வேறு என்னதான் வழி இருக்கிறது என்பதை கொஞ்சம் மந்திரியார் சொல்வார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The hon. Leader of the Opposition knows the technique much better than I do."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" How many prisoners convicted for life from Tamil Nad are at present in the Cannanore Central Jail? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I want notice, Sir."

Appointment of dealers in ammonium sulphate.

11-40 a.m. * 40 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the reasons for appointing dealers in sulphate of ammonia for the purpose of sales;

(*b*) who was responsible for the shortage of ammonia for purposes of sale during this year;

(*c*) the procedure adopted in getting sulphate of ammonia in previous years; and

(*d*) whether the same procedure was strictly observed during this year?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) The control over the distribution of ammonium sulphate has been taken up by this Government at the instance of the Government of India with a view to encouraging the increased use of this fertilizer and to make it available to the agriculturists at a uniform and economic rate throughout the State. The appointment of selected dealers for this purpose has been ordered accordingly.

" (b) The supply and distribution of ammonium sulphate in the country is controlled by the Government of India through the Central Fertilizer Pool and this State gets its requirements from the Central Pool only. The shortage of ammonium sulphate in this State has arisen due to the Central Fertilizer Pool not being able to arrange supplies according to the needs of this State, the phased programme drawn up by this State and the despatching instructions issued by this Government.

" (c) The requirements of the State were ascertained by the Government of India and supply was arranged through the Central Fertilizer Pool. The retail distribution was effected by the State Government as a State Trading Scheme.

" (d) Yes."

Appointment of dealers in ammonium sulphate.

* 41 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the number of licensed dealers in ammonium sulphate in the State selected during June and July 1954, and their terms of appointment;

(b) the number of dealers in the trade before the fertilizers were controlled;

(c) the causes for controlling fertilizers and licensing the dealers; and

(d) why Harijans have not been selected though they have applied for licences?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Two dealers in each taluk have been appointed. Of the two one is a co-operative organization. The conditions for their appointment are (i) they should open as many retail depots as possible subject to a minimum of five depots in a deltaic tract and three depots in a non-deltaic tract in the taluk; (ii) they would be allowed an all inclusive commission of not more than Rs. 20 per ton towards transport and handling charges, profit, etc., and they should sell the fertilizer at a price not exceeding Rs. 350–6–3 per ton inclusive of sales tax ; and (iii) they should execute an agreement with the Government and abide by the conditions imposed by the Government in regard to the receipt, storage and distribution of ammonium sulphate.